

# Fine and Gross Motor Skills

- ◆ Isolates one or two fingers
- ◆ Uses scissors to cut on a line
- ◆ Uses markers and pencils while holding paper
- ◆ Folds and tears paper
- ◆ Holds ruler with one hand while using pencil to draw
- ◆ Holds paper with one hand while applying glue with the other



- ◆ Runs, stops, changes direction
- ◆ Hops
- ◆ Gallops
- ◆ Combines motor skills to use some sport equipment
- ◆ Performs simple tumbling stunts
- ◆ Rides tricycle

# Activities and Opportunities

Fun and interesting activities should be part of a family's routine. There are many activities which you and your child engage in during each day that can be excellent learning experiences for your child. The important thing to remember is to support your child's curiosity, imagination, and sense of wonder as they encounter each new learning experience.

Talk to your child. Talking builds brain connections, language and listening skills, and prepares you child for reading.

## Read to your child.

- ◆ Brain cells make connections as a child hears words, looks at pictures, and sees letters.
- ◆ Hold your child close and talk to them about the pictures, the story, and the book's features.
- ◆ Ask questions. What do you think will happen next? What did you like best about the story? The least?
- ◆ Reading is one of the most important things parents can do to support their child's beginning reading development.

## Allow opportunities for your child to:

- ◆ Sing and play
- ◆ Learn rhymes
- ◆ "Read" books
- ◆ Write notes, lists, stories
- ◆ Help you shop
- ◆ Help you do chores
- ◆ Explore and talk about the outside world
- ◆ Listen to a story and draw a picture. Talk about it.

Spend time with your child. Show patience with your child. Virtually every activity during your child's day can be a learning experience.

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## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING AND INTERVENTION

# How can I help my child prepare for Kindergarten?



# Does your child have these skills?

## Self Help Skills

- ◆ Potty trained and can take care of all toileting needs.
- ◆ Eats with a fork and spoon
- ◆ Zips and buttons clothes
- ◆ Blows nose independently
- ◆ Enjoys good nutrition
- ◆ Has healthy sleep habits



## Social Skills

- ◆ Gets along with others
- ◆ Respects self, others, and property
- ◆ Understands sharing and taking turns
- ◆ Talks in sentences
- ◆ Sits and listens for a short period of time
- ◆ Shows patience and is considerate of others
- ◆ Keeps hands and feet to self
- ◆ Works with others cooperatively
- ◆ Understands the meaning of the word “no”

## Does Your Child Have...

- ◆ Curiosity
- ◆ Enjoyment of Learning
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Creativity
- ◆ Attention to tasks
- ◆ Reflection
- ◆ Interests and attitudes



## Cognition and General Knowledge

Having a basic knowledge of concepts and the workings of the environment in which the child participates is an important readiness skill.

When a child can solve basic problems it will be through their curiosity and the ability to acquire, organize and use information in more complex ways.

Gaining mathematical skills is also very important for a child's kindergarten readiness. This can be through an understanding of numbers, discriminating shapes and colors, simple patterns, size, location and time.

**K**indle excitement about kindergarten. Visit your school and meet your child's teacher.  
**I**n vite new school friends home to play and help you child build strong friendships.  
**N**ever forget safety. Teach safety rules—about walking, taking the bus, or talking to strangers.  
**D**iscuss what your child will be learning in school—colors, numbers, shapes and letter.  
**E**xplore your neighborhood together. Talk about the world you live in.  
**R**evue the good behavior expected of your child, such as following rules and taking turns.  
**G**et involved at your child's school. Join parent groups, volunteer in the classroom or field trips.  
**A**nswer your child's questions about school. Reassure your child that school is fun!  
**R**ead to your child daily for at least 20 minutes. Visit the library together.  
**T**urn every day into a learning experience. Let your child help with everyday chores.  
**E**ncourage your child to eat well, get enough sleep, bathe daily, and brush teeth 2 time a day.  
**N**otice the new things your child is learning to do. Reinforce your child's progress with praise.

# 14 Preschool Literacy Accomplishments

1. Knows that alphabet letters can be used to make words
2. Recognizes environmental print
3. Understands the basic concepts of print
4. Knows that different forms of print are used for different functions
5. Plays with sounds and attempts to create words
6. Uses new vocabulary during conversation
7. Understands and follows oral directions
8. Able to retell a familiar story
9. Shows an interest in books
10. Is able to identify the letters in his/her name and some additional letters
11. Is eager to learn to read
12. Communicates through drawing and emergent writing
13. Enjoys rhyming and word games
14. Is building confidence



## How is your child's—

- ◆ Expressive language—speech that is understood or use of a nonverbal system of communication
- ◆ Understanding skills to effectively interact with others
- ◆ Early literacy skills are part of language development (awareness of print, understanding that writing has a purpose)